

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference AXG/P450,295WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/GB00/03650	International filing date (day/month/year) 21/09/2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 21/09/1999	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC E06C9/14			
Applicant WILLIAMS, Kevin, David			

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.


2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

- ☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☒ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 19/04/2001	Date of completion of this report 13.12.2001
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer Knerr, G Telephone No. +49 89 2399 2446



INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/GB00/03650

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, pages:

1-20 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-41 as originally filed

Drawings, sheets:

1/5-5/5 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(h)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:

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☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	2-41
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-41
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations
see separate sheet

VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:
see separate sheet

Re Item V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. The following documents have been considered for the purposes of this report:

D1: DE-C-72092

D2: DE-C-215843

D3: US-A-3012626

2. The present application does not meet the requirements of Article 33(2) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new in respect of prior art as defined in the regulations (Rule 64(1)-(3) PCT).
 - 2.1 Document D1 shows a fire escape apparatus with all features mentioned in claim 1. In particular, the known apparatus comprises a casing (K), a flexible ladder ("Strickleiter") and means (s,t,p) for deploying said ladder. The casing has a mouth and contains the flexible ladder when not in use. The deployment means includes a spacer means (t) and handle means (D) and may be reversibly reconfigured between a storage configuration and a deployed configuration.
3. Dependent claims 2 to 41 do not appear to contain any additional features which involve an inventive step by themselves, because the man skilled in the art would employ them, if required, on the basis of his expert knowledge even if they are not disclosed in or obvious from the cited state of the art. Thus, even a combination of the features set out in these claims with the features of the independent claim to which they refer would not lead to subject-matter involving an inventive step.
4. The subject-matter of all claims is of course industrially applicable.

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

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Re Item VII

Certain defects in the international application

5. The features of the claims are not provided with reference signs placed in parentheses (Rule 6.2(b) PCT).
6. Contrary to the requirements of Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT, the relevant background art disclosed in the document D1 is not mentioned in the description, nor is this document identified therein.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inter Application No

PCT/GB 00/03650

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 E06C9/14 B63B27/14

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 E06C B63B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DE 72 092 C (BRUNS) 13 May 1893 (1893-05-13)	1-3, 7-9, 20, 22-26, 28-33, 35, 36
A	the whole document	4-6, 10, 14-19, 21, 27, 34, 37-41
Y		12, 13
X	DE 215 843 C (SPONHOLZ) 18 July 1907 (1907-07-18)	1, 7-9
A	the whole document	2-6
A	GB 1 049 607 A (SAITA) 30 November 1966 (1966-11-30) the whole document	1-25
	-/-	

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *G* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

20 December 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

28/12/2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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Authorized officer

Righetti, R

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inter Application No
PCT/GB 00/03650

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 3 012 626 A (MARRYATT) 12 December 1961 (1961-12-12)	12, 13
A	figures ---	1
A	GB 2 222 848 A (MELVILLE) 21 March 1990 (1990-03-21) abstract; figures ---	29-32, 39-41
A	GB 2 204 629 A (APPS) 16 November 1988 (1988-11-16) abstract; figures ---	1
A	US 2 990 908 A (WOZNIAK) 4 July 1961 (1961-07-04) figures ---	1, 2
A	US 2 536 966 A (TELLER) 2 January 1951 (1951-01-02) figures -----	37, 38

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

informatic patent family members

Inte application No

PCT/GB 00/03650

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
DE 72092	C	NONE	
DE 215843	C	NONE	
GB 1049607	A	NONE	
US 3012626	A	12-12-1961	NONE
GB 2222848	A	21-03-1990	NONE
GB 2204629	A	16-11-1988	NONE
US 2990908	A	04-07-1961	NONE
US 2536966	A	02-01-1951	NONE

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P450, 295W0	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/GB 00/ 03650	International filing date (day/month/year) 21/09/2000	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 21/09/1999
Applicant WILLIAMS, Kevin, David		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 3 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :

☐ contained in the international application in written form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box I).

3. ☐ **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box II).

4. With regard to the **title**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

☒ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

3

☐ None of the figures.

01/21926 A1



Published:

— With international search report.

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.